

As the delegate for Women's Long Distance Running, I attended all meetings of Women's LDR, Men's LDR, and the LDR Division. At these meetings, we reviewed the events of 2012 and looked forward to 2013 and beyond.

In the realm of Women's LDR, American women competed in two international events since the Olympics, including the Chiba Marathon (Co-ed) Relay in Japan and the IAAF World Half Marathon Championships in Bulgaria. The marathon relay placed 3rd of 15 teams and the Half Marathon team placed 5th of 9 teams. During this recap, Women's LDR representatives discussed the effects that travel time and changing times zones had on the athletes. The Runner of the Year was awarded to Janet Bawcom for winning the USA Championships Road Circuit. Janet also set a pending American Record in the 25k.

The Women's LDR division also voted to change the age for "Open" competitors. Previously, the minimum age was 14; this was changed to 16 by unanimous vote. This change will mirror the minimum age in the Men's LDR division.

Looking forward, the Women's LDR division is planning for the next US Olympic Trials in the Marathon in 2016. Qualifying standards along with the qualifying window were established and ratified. Women can qualify to the Olympic Trials Marathon with a 2:37 (A standard- all expenses paid), 2:43 (B standard- entry fee paid), or a half marathon time of 1:15 (B standard) from August 1, 2013 until 30 days before the trials. The date and site of the trials is TBD.

Exciting events were added to the USA Championships scheduled including a Team 10k at Tufts in October 2013 and a Team 8k in Chicago in April 2013. In these events, three women will combine to score as a team. Other updates include the 1 mile Championships being held in conjunction with Drake Relays in April in 2013 and 2014 and in conjunction with the Twin Cities Marathon in 2015 and 2016. The 10k Championships will be in Georgia at the Peachtree 10k in 2013 and 2014 and back at Tufts in 2015 and 2016.

A new chair of Women's LDR was elected to a 4-year term, Kimberly Keenan-Kirkpatrick. Kim appeared to have strong athlete support as members of the AAC attended for her nomination and exited immediately after her nomination speech.

Finally, Women's LDR is working to organize a Women's Running Hall of Fame. Possible sites for housing historical materials include Utica, NY at the National Running Hall of Fame, Seneca Falls or the Armory. Anyone with items to contribute can contact Barbara Palma.

It was a pleasure to attend the USATF Annual Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida and meet fellow delegates and track and field enthusiasts. I look forward to representing Women's LDR in the Ohio Association.

Sincerely,

Liz Maus